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Representations regarding the taking of finger-prints of political prisoners.

*187-C Q.—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received petitions or representations regarding the taking of finger-prints of prisoners from the persons convicted in connexion with the civil disobedience movement or from Superintendents of Jails; if so, by whom they were made and what were the contents of the petitions or representations so made;

(b) what action the Government have taken on the said petitions or representations; if not, whether they propose to take any;

(c) whether finger-prints are taken of all the prisoners in jails; if not, what classes of prisoners are required to give finger-prints; and

(d) the reasons for taking finger-prints of political prisoners?

A.—(a) to (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answers to questions, Nos. 105 and 187-B.

Constant transfer of Mr. T. Prakasam.

*188-A Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether Mr. T. Prakasam, Bar.-at-Law and Editor of *Swarajya*, has been transferred from jail to jail and, if so, how often and why and to what jails, together with the period of detention in each jail?

A.—The information has been called for.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Has the information been since received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It has not been received yet."

Policy underlying transfer of political prisoners from jails.

*188-B Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the reasons underlying the policy of the Government in the transfer of political prisoners from one jail to another?

A.—Transfer of prisoners from one jail to another within the Presidency is ordered by the Inspector-General of Prisons under rules 468—473 of the Madras Jail Manual.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"I wish to bring to your notice, Sir, that I am referred in this answer to rules 468—473 of the Madras Jail Manual, and that book is not available to me for reference?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It is in the Library; and if it is not in the Library, if my hon. Friend will kindly come to my room, I shall give him the book."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"I seek your protection, Mr. President. I think a rule must be issued to the effect that if the rules to which reference is made are not available on the floor of the House, then they must be printed and made available to the House; and the question should not, for absence of reasonable facilities, be allowed to be passed over like this."

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It is simply impossible to bring the whole of the Library here, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Then you must give the information here."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am not bound to."

Transfer of satyagrahi prisoners to Rajahmundry from Palamcottah.

*189-A Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 59 youthful satyagrahis have been transferred to Rajahmundry jail from Palamcottah;

(b) if so, under what section of the Borstal Act or under whose orders, and for what reasons;

(c) whether a copy of the order, if any, will be placed on the table of the House;

(d) whether any arrangements have been made at Rajahmundry for Borstal treatment of those youthful satyagrahis and if so, what they are; and

(e) when the arrangements were made and at what cost?

A.—(a) *to* (e) In G.O. No. 5330, Law (General), dated 18th December 1930 (copy [a] placed on the table) the Government have declared a special enclosure in the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, to be a Borstal School under the Madras Borstal Schools Act for the detention of all adolescent offenders convicted for offences connected with the civil disobedience movement. The Inspector-General of Prisons has taken action under section 13 of the Madras Borstal Schools Act, 1925, for the transfer to the new Borstal school at Rajahmundry of satyagraha adolescent offenders previously detained in the two schools at Tanjore and Palamcottah.

Number, etc., of political juvenile offenders.

*189-B Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many persons are now kept in custody in the various Borstal schools;

(b) how many of them have been convicted for political offences, and if so, the date of conviction of each;

(c) the respective ages of such convicts;

(d) their educational or other qualifications;

(e) whether all or any of them are married, and if so, how many;

(f) whether the Sessions Judge of Nellore regarded the application of the Borstal Act to political juvenile offenders as illegal; and

(g) whether his judgment was referred to the Advocate-General for his opinion and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay his opinion on the table of the House?

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a Printed as Appendix I on page 532 infra.